

INTER-AGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IAAC) MEETING
Monday, April 29, 2002, 2:15 PM to 3:15 PM, WHOI Carriage House
DRAFT MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Mike Bothner, USGS; Todd Callaghan, MCZM; Dave Dow, NMFS; Tom Fredette, USACoE; Russ Isaac, MADEP; and Steve Lipman, MADEP alternate.

Observers: Bruce Berman, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay; Peter Borrelli, Center for Coastal Studies; Cathy Coniaris, MADEP; Patty Foley, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay; Mike Mickelson, MWRA; Andrea Rex, MWRA; Larry Schafer, retired; and Steve Tucker, Cape Cod Commission.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

1. IAAC will remain a standing committee. The group decided to not elect a chair at this time.
2. IAAC recommends that the mussel contaminant monitoring continue for several years.
3. October 2001 minutes were approved with no amendments.

MINUTES

C. Coniaris noted that Sal Testaverde is no longer the chair of IAAC and thanked him for his work. She and S. Lipman are co-chairs for this meeting until a chair is elected. The role of IAAC as stated in the OMSAP charter is “to advise OMSAP on environmental regulations”. IAAC has been discussing precisely what this means to its members for several years. The group should decide whether it will continue to meet, and if so, who will be the chair, and how will the group function.

R. Isaac thinks if we follow IAAC’s role as stated in the OMSAP charter, then there does not seem to be a need for this group, especially since OMSAP has never asked IAAC to convene. Perhaps we can meet on an *ad hoc* basis as issues arise. D. Dow thinks that IAAC should continue to meet to discuss regulatory/management issues.

M. Bothner said that USGS focuses on science, not regulations or management. He hopes USGS will continue to contribute good science on how the Mass Bay/Boston Harbor system works. He thinks the agencies should be in communication about what changes are taking place in their programs in Mass Bay. This could be a useful forum, either as IAAC, or another committee. S. Lipman thinks that is an excellent idea, but it sounds like a different forum than IAAC.

T. Fredette sees IAAC as a standing subcommittee to OMSAP. The committee is a creation of the permit and its charter is defined by the permit. He is not sure that IAAC can redefine that without the support of EPA/MADEP. S. Lipman agreed. R. Isaac thinks the points made in favor of broadening the role of IAAC are useful, but it is not our role to set that up.

T. Callaghan, a new member, asked if OMSAP asks IAAC members in its audience regulatory questions. C. Coniaris replied that OMSAP frequently does. P. Borrelli noted that OMSAP reviewed the mussel study but they did not discuss revising the threshold because no one on IAAC guided them, even though OMSAP agreed that the threshold did not make sense scientifically. He thinks it is important that the OMSAP and IAAC members interact. S. Lipman said that at the last OMSAP meeting, this issue of dissolved oxygen (DO) regulations arose, and EPA/MADEP responded.

A. Rex agreed with P. Borrelli, and it may be interesting for IAAC to have a discussion on the regulatory implications of the mussel contaminant threshold. MWRA did not request that OMSAP discuss revising the threshold because we think it is too soon. But the threshold did do its job of making us look more closely at a change that was significant, although not biologically meaningful. P. Foley suggested that IAAC meet several weeks before OMSAP so that they can discuss what the role of the regulators is in the science agenda. R. Isaac said that IAAC was formed to be a responder, and not an initiator. Prior to OMSAP, there was the Outfall Monitoring Task Force (OMTF) that had members from the scientific, regulatory, and public interest group communities. There were concerns about the credibility of such a group and so EPA/MADEP wanted to form a science panel of independent scientists.

S. Tucker thinks it would be good to have issues such as DO discussed by IAAC, but he does not think OMSAP would ever call upon them to meet. R. Isaac suggested he write a letter directly to EPA/MADEP with his concerns. S. Tucker thinks OMSAP should evaluate things like an exceedance from a scientific perspective, followed by an IAAC review from a regulatory perspective. S. Lipman said that this is not how the process was set up. T. Fredette thinks that there are a number of IAAC members who have been involved since the original OMTF that have considerable scientific and regulatory expertise. There was a desire to continue to have this knowledge available and as OMTF transitioned into the OMSAP, the IAAC was created. He is not sure why IAAC is needed when EPA and MADEP, the permit issuers, are present at OMSAP meetings to answer questions. M. Bothner thinks having IAAC as a standing committee is a good resolution, it shows our willingness to participate, and does not require a permit modification. **ACTION:** IAAC will remain a standing committee. The group decided to not elect a chair at this time.

M. Mickelson asked how IAAC felt about the mussel monitoring. T. Callaghan replied that looking at just one year and making a decision is irresponsible, especially when that “year” is just a 60-day deployment. We need to look at variability among several years, at least through the life of this permit. M. Bothner thinks that the Cape Cod Bay station is very important to maintain because some contaminants have an atmospheric input as well. He feels that long term data are quite useful. T. Fredette thinks the mussel monitoring should continue for at least another year. IAAC members agreed that it was important to continue the mussel contaminant monitoring for several years. C. Coniaris urged IAAC members to be involved with the upcoming OMSAP discussion on developing a process for reviewing the Monitoring Plan. **ACTION:** IAAC recommends that the mussel contaminant monitoring continue for several years.

ACTION: Minutes from the October 2001 meeting were approved.

ADJOURNED

MEETING HANDOUTS:

- Agenda
- April 2002 OMSAP/PIAC/IAAC membership lists
- October 2001 draft IAAC minutes
- MWRA information briefings and copies of presentations

Summary prepared by C. Coniaris.